

## **"MOUNTAIN PROTECTED AREAS UPDATE, September 1, 1995 " -Mtn-Forum On-Line Library Document**

Lawrence S. Hamilton, Vice-Chair on Mountains September 1, 1995 Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas/IUCN

And thus these threatening ranges of dark mountains, which, in nearly all ages of the world, men [and women] have looked upon with aversion or with terror, are, in reality sources of life and happiness, fuller and more beneficent than the bright fruitfulness of the plains.

John Ruskin (with gender bias removed by the editor)

### **Tourists prefer to look at the mountain, unless they get a ride up. Jill Blignaut Dream Corridors Continued from Last Issue**

More examples of a developing interest in protected area corridors at an international scale have come to the attention of the editors. Network member Edgard Yerena has published a study of "Ecological Corridors in the Andes of Venezuela" based on the habitat needs of the endangered Andean (spectacled) bear. It identifies and promotes linkages of protection between existing Venezuelan national parks and reserves. In subsequent work he extends the concern to the whole Andean range of this keystone species. This would involve connections between country protected areas and transboundary cooperation from Venezuela through to southern Bolivia. Corridors for large carnivores are being recognized increasingly as key elements in biodiversity conservation, and as a safety precaution for climate change.

In the Rocky Mountains of North America, a concrete proposal has been developed by The Wildlands Project and picked up by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and American Wildlands, for a Yellowstone-to-Yukon Corridor. Many elements now exist: the Northern Rockies of northeastern British Columbia are largely wild; the four mountain parks of Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho in Alberta (together with adjacent provincial parks; and Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area and down to Yellowstone National Park).

And meanwhile over in the Cascades Mountains, there is a concrete proposal for a Cascades International Park and Stewardship Area. This involves on the Washington State side the North Cascades National Park, three recreation areas and seven wilderness areas. On the British Columbia side there are Manning and Cathedral Provincial Parks and two recreation areas. A Cascades International Alliance composed of 15 environmental and educational organizations from both sides of the border is directing this effort. The "Nature Has No Borders" campaign and newsletter is spearheaded by the Northwest Region of the National Parks and Conservation Association.

It looks like Jim Thorsell's Dream, a "Corridor of the Americas" is not just a pipe dream!

### **Australian Alps Transboundary Protected Area Workshop**

Thanks to the fine fundraising and logistical work of Janet Mackay of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee, this hoped-for workshop will definitely take place November 12-20, 1995. It is co-sponsored and co-organized by the CNPPA Mountain Theme. Approximately 28 core participants from at least 20 countries will exchange problems and successful experiences in the management of mountain parks on the border and across the border, and see first hand the field examples of cooperative management of seven protected areas in two States and the Australian Capital Territory. Among the products will be a draft model transboundary cooperation agreement and a set of practical guidelines for cooperation in management of these border parks. All fellowship awards have been allocated, but any protected areas managers from mountain border parks who can fund their own

participation could still be accommodated, up until October 15. It would entail a round trip air ticket to Melbourne and approximately US\$ 1,100 for in-country transport, lodging and food. Contact Janet Mackay, telephone 61 64 56 17 00 or fax 61 64 56 22 91.

### **Cairngorms Partnership**

The Cairngorms area has the highest and most massive range of arctic mountain landscape in the British Isles, and is certainly one of the most important wild places in Scotland. To prepare and implement an integrated management strategy for this area, an interesting and innovative board was established in June 1995, called the Cairngorms Partnership. It is composed of representatives from local government authorities in the area, and of local communities, business/tourism, private land managers, environmental interests and recreation (22 members). It has the characteristics of a private company but is based on the Voluntary Principle.

The initial priorities are: 1) Protection and enhancement of the conservation value of the montane zone (above tree line, 600 m), and the sympathetic management of the recreation pressures on it; and 2) Establishment of a framework for the protection, regeneration and re-establishment of native woodlands, and the appropriate management of deer and other grazing pressures. The Partnership is charged with the publication of a Management Strategy by May 1996 and with offering the Scottish Natural Heritage its advice on designation of a Cairngorms Natural Heritage Area. Several MtPA Network members are or have been involved in the Cairngorms strategy, including John Mackay, Alan Dohie, Malcolm Payne, and in earlier times several others.

### **Mountain Program in Oxford**

A Mountain Regions Program has begun at the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Unit, directed by Martin Price, with support from the Rhodes Trust. Its activities will include applied research, especially on linkages between conservation, tourism, and other aspects of economic development; inputs into policy processes, especially in Europe; and publications. It is anticipated that the mountains of Central/Eastern Europe will be a major research focus, and Martin would like to hear from network members interested in collaboration. Following on from Martin's recent work on mountains for IUCN's European Program, one of the program's first major activities will be to assist in the organization of the 1996 European intergovernmental consultations on sustainable mountain development. (See Coming Events section.)

### **Note on Mount Cameroon**

Mount Cameroon is centered in the Guineo-Congolian regional area of endemism, one of the main Pleistocene refugia postulated for Africa, and contains cu. 4.000 higher plant species with cu. 50 of these endemic to Mount Cameroon itself. This is the last area in Africa where natural vegetation remains unbroken from sea level to the sub-alpine peak at the summit. Nearly 10 volcanic eruptions since 1800 have created a vegetation succession mosaic of various ages and over a range of altitudes. The wildlife of the region is also extremely rich with numerous endemic primates and birds, and the highly endangered forest elephant, drill and chimpanzee.

The Limbe Botanic Garden is a component of the greater Mount Cameroon Project. Its main objective is the conservation of the unique biodiversity of Mount Cameroon, with the support of the local people. A part of achieving this aim is encouraging research initiatives to provide baseline information for the formulation of management plans for the sustainable development of the region and helping to identify conservation priorities and the optimum methods of conserving them. Substantial logistical support is available to researchers interested in work on Mount Cameroon. Contact Nouhou Ndam, Conservator, Limbe Botanic Garden, P O Box 437, Limbe, Cameroon; or Terry Sunderland, TCO Botanic Garden Management Advisor, FCO (Yaounde), King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH, United Kingdom.

### **Tree Planting by Himalayan Pilgrims:**

## **A Success Story of Culturally Motivated Conservation and Restoration**

(submitted by MtPA Network member Edwin Bernbaum)

In 1993 Professor A.N. Purohit, a plant physiologist and Director of the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, along with his staff visited Badrinath, the major Hindu pilgrimage shrine in the Indian Himalaya, and noticed how the surrounding slopes had been stripped bare of forest. 350,000 pilgrims a year come to Badrinath from all over India, arriving on roads built in the early 1960s. Their influx has had both good and bad impacts. Professor Purohit decided to see if the Head Priest of the temple would use his religious authority to encourage pilgrims to plant trees for restoration of the site.

After making offerings as a pilgrim himself, Professor Purohit suggested this idea to the Head Priest, saying the G.B. Pant Institute could supply the seedlings. The Head Priest worried that the seedlings would not survive, but Professor Purohit pointed out that people would learn just from the act of planting, even if the trees failed. Something of value would begin. Now greatly excited, the Head Priest said he would set a date for the joint undertaking. On the appointed day Professor Purohit returned with 20,000 seedlings from his institute and placed them in rows outside the temple. When the pilgrims made offerings, the Head Priest stood near the gate of the temple and gave an inspiring talk highlighting religious beliefs about the spiritual importance of trees. He concluded by encouraging the pilgrims to take the seedlings and plant them on the slopes as an act of religious devotion. There was a great rush, and all 20,000 seedlings were planted. Everyone benefited: the pilgrims received blessings, the Head Priest's reputation soared, and reforestation had begun.

Thinking of the future, Professor Purohit put up a sign asking the pilgrims for donations to care for the seedlings. In no time they had contributed a generous amount. Badrinath, like other pilgrimage sites in India, has a long line of beggars. Professor Purohit felt that if the beggars were offered in cash what they made from begging, plus food, they would care for the trees instead of begging. To his surprise all the beggars took him up on his offer: they were as eager to get spiritual blessings as physical nourishment.

Dr. P.P. Dhyani, a scientist of the Institute, and the Head Priest did another planting this June to expand the reforested area and include species that preserve the biodiversity of the region. The next stage of the program will be to contact priests and community leaders at the nearby shrines of Kedarnath and Tungnath, setting in motion plans to expand reforestation to other pilgrimage sites and to include additional measures such as getting pilgrims to stop littering and encouraging truck drivers to take out trash in return for blessings.

The successful tree planting at Badrinath demonstrates what kinds of cultural approaches to promoting biodiversity and conservation can work, and shows how science and religion can work together for the benefit of the environment and the preservation of spiritual values. The collaborative efforts of Professor Purohit and the Head Priest can serve as an inspiring model for sustainable restoration and environmental projects not only in the Himalaya, but in other parts of the world where sacred sites and pilgrimages are important.

(Editor's note: Ed Bernbaum has a comprehensive project proposal to fully research and document this activity with video and to assist in expanding the practice to other religious sites. No funders yet, so if any members have good ideas, please contact Ed at 1846 Capistrano Avenue, Berkeley, California 94707; fax 510 527 1290.)

### **Trails Studies Unit - Trent University**

Network member John Marsh is not only Director of the Frost Centre for Canadian Heritage and Development Studies at Trent University, but is Co-Director of a recent Trails Studies Unit. Its activities include: 1) The development and operation of a resource center on trails, trail studies and trail interpretation; the production of bibliographies relating to trails; and dissemination of such resources to interested agencies, trail organizations and the public; 2) Research and consulting on trails, trail management, interpretation, trail impacts, especially in Canada; 3) Courses and conferences relating to the development, planning, management and interpretation of trails; 4) The production of interpretation materials and services relating to trails; 5) Publication of a newsletter,

"Trail Research News", on the work and resources of the Unit and trail research elsewhere. The existence of this resource may be of interest to mountain protected area managers or interpreters. For more information, contact Professor John Marsh, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7B8 Canada.

### **Khanas Lake Nature Reserves China**

China's Agenda 21 process includes mountain protected areas among its priority projects. One such area is the remote Khanas Lake Nature Reserve in the Altai Mountains in the north of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. China shares the Altai Mountains with Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Mongolia. MtPA Network member Bing Lucas was in the Khanas Lake area in June with a New Zealand Development Assistance Mission working with Chinese officials and local communities to identify protection and eco-tourism potential, while maintaining the sustainable lifestyle developed over centuries by the local people. Last year this lovely but remote area was visited by about 700 Chinese and 200 foreigners. A point Bing mentions is the desirability of addressing conservation of the Altai Mountains on an international basis with the four countries involved. Bing's description of the adventures and misadventures on this mission is a delight.

Yuri Badenhov reports that there will be an international conference in the Altai sometime in 1996, marking the 250th anniversary of the unification of Altai with the Russian Empire. We await more specifics from Yuri.

### **New National Park in the Polish Carpathians**

On January 1, 1995, the new national park in Poland started its activity, created according to decree of the Council of Ministers. The Magurski National Park is situated in a relatively low part of the Carpathians chain, called Beskid Niski (Low Beskid Mountains), about 100 km southeast from Cracow. The park covers 19,962 ha and is surrounded by a buffer zone of an area of 22,967 ha. To the south, the park reaches the Polish-Slovakian border. Magurski National Park was established to protect extensive forests (mostly Carpathian beech forests) with rich fauna of big mammals (including lynx, wolf, bear, red deer, and wild boar) and many birds. There are also picturesque sandstone towers within the park. In addition the buffer zone contains several fine examples of wooden folk architecture as well as memorials of World War I. The main challenges for the new park will be forest management and relations with local communities. Magurski National Park is the sixth national park in the Polish Carpathians, and probably the last in this area. However, some of the already existing national parks could be enlarged.

### **Clayoquot Sound Protected Areas (Mountains to the Sea)**

On July 6, the Forests and the Environment Ministers of British Columbia, Canada formally adopted a scientific panel report and recommendations (120 of them) for Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island. This includes introduction of legislation the same week to set up a 87,500 ha new park and the designation of many other areas as Forest Land Reserve. This large ecosystem includes alpine meadows, steep mountain faces, limestone caves, long stretches of beaches, aboriginal heritage sites, 29 rare plant species, bear, important bird habitat, four species of salmon and two species of trout. An agreement between the government and the First Nation Region Chiefs establishes a joint process for land use and resource management, a cooperative production forest and a committee to identify economic opportunities for First Nation people and others. In forest production areas, new standards of harvesting practice will be given legal force.

In addition to the excellent work of the 19-member international scientific panel, much of the action can be attributed to the work of environmental NGOs which advocated long and hard for changed policies.

### **The Yosemite Restoration Trust and its Work for Yosemite National Park**

(submitted by MtPA Network member Edgar Wayharr)

The Yosemite Restoration Trust is the only citizen organization which devotes a major, sustained effort to influencing National Park Service policy in Yosemite National Park. The mission is to ensure protection of the natural, scenic and historic resources in the ecosystems of the park and to ensure that visitors have the highest quality experience possible of the park's natural values. The Trust works to influence government and concessionaire policies in the park and throughout the greater Yosemite region. The future of the park is tied to the future of the surrounding regions because its natural resources are affected by activities outside the park boundaries, and because gateway communities offer lodging, housing, restaurants, and retail facilities that should be outside the park. The future of the region is tied to that of the park because of Yosemite's worldwide reputation, which generates vast and increasing amounts of tourism, which is the region's primary business.

The Trust, founded in 1990, became a leader in a coalition which persuaded the NPS to commit to implementing its own 1980 General Management Plan, and to ensure that a new concessionaire would fund and carry out its obligations under the plan. The General Management Plan may be summarized by the following excerpt:

The intent of the NPS is to remove all automobiles from Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove and to redirect development to the periphery of the park and beyond. Similarly the essence of wilderness which so strongly complements the Valley, will be preserved. The result will be that visitors can step into Yosemite and find nature uncluttered by piecemeal stumbling blocks of commercialism, machines, and fragments of suburbia.

At present the Trust's advocacy has several elements:

- 1) Removal of facilities from Yosemite Valley. The Trust supports the GMP's policies for moving outside of Yosemite Valley those support facilities which are not necessary to remain there and for redirecting development to locations outside the park. The NPS headquarters and administration buildings should be located in the gateway community of El Portal. El Portal should become a model of environmentally sensitive development, incorporating offices, housing, and other related employee and visitor services. The Park Service, the concessionaire, local governments, and the private sector should work together to ensure adequate housing for long term employees within gateway communities. Buildings in the Valley which are not needed because their functions have been relocated outside the Valley, should be demolished and the area returned to its natural state.
- 2) Scaling back of the concessionaires activities in Yosemite. Under a new concession contract, the concessionaire will eliminate 310 lodging units, a reduction of 20.5 percent. The concessionaire will also reduce by 25 percent the space devoted to retail sales. The contract does not specify the timing of these changes. It may be in the concessionaire's economic interest to postpone them, just as it is in the gateway communities' interest to change soon.
- 3) Shift to a new transportation system in and to the national park. The Trust supports the intent of the NPS, as stated in the GMP, to remove all automobiles from Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove of giant Sequoia trees. This will enhance the quality of the visitor experience in Yosemite Valley and will minimize reliance on non-renewable sources of energy. The NPS should promptly extend the existing shuttle system to cover the entire Valley. It should require all automobile visitors during peak periods to park vehicles and then to walk, bicycle, or use the shuttle. It should establish a regional bus system connecting Yosemite with the gateway communities, and should encourage an increasing proportion of visitors to travel to Yosemite by transit. In so doing, it must regulate the operation of tour buses. The NPS will soon release a consultant's study of transportation alternatives.
- 4) Limitations on the Number of Visitors. With the substantial population increase in California and the world, and more expected, Yosemite National Park is unable to accommodate at one time all those who would like to visit. In order to meet the public demand, while also safeguarding the natural resources, the Trust favors supporting the visitor limits adopted in the 1980 GMP, i.e. 10,530 day-use visitors, and capacity for 6,611

overnight visitors. A visitor limit is important to protect the Valley's natural resources and to ensure that visitors have the most satisfying experience. The Trust has proposed that NPS establish a peak-season reservation system for the day-use visitors to Yosemite Valley.

Members of the Mountain Protected Area Network are encouraged to interest themselves in the future of this great national park. For more information, contact the Yosemite Restoration Trust, 116 Montgomery Street, Suite 526, San Francisco, California 94109.

### **Some Recent Publications**

~ The Mountains of Central and Eastern Europe is a review of issues affecting conservation in this region, compiled by MtPA Network Martin Price. It includes descriptions of each mountain range; national summaries; a regional overview of issues affecting conservation of biological and landscape diversity; national maps of MtPAs; and proposals for further action. The 139-page report is No. 9 in the Environmental Research Series of IUCN's European Programme. Available from IUCN Publications Services Unit, 219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, United Kingdom.

~ Mountains is one of the Illustrated Library of the Earth series. The volume appeared late in 1994 and the consulting Editor is Network member Jack Ives. It is indeed superbly and liberally illustrated with color photos. While not specifically dealing with protected areas, all of the chapters present in simple language for lay readers, the myriad physical, biological and human facets necessary for an understanding of what mountains are and the forces acting on them that both threaten and sustain them. Available from Rodale Press, 33 East Minor Street, Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18098 USA or bookstores; US\$35.

~ A Campaign for Cloud Forests: Unique and Valuable Ecosystems at Risk has been published by IUCN as a booklet in the Focus Series. It was written by the CNPPA Vice-Chair and puts the spotlight on the need for protecting these biologically-rich, water-capturing mountain forests that are dwindling so rapidly. Part of the intent is to inform the donor and technical assistance communities to the need for a campaign of conservation, especially in the mountains of the tropical world where most of them are found. Available from IUCN Division of Communications and Corporate Relations, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1 196 Gland, Switzerland.

### **New Members of the Mountain Protected Area Network**

In response to the questionnaire in the March UPDATE, many of you suggested the names of others who might like to be included in the Network. There have also been other contacts made in the course of work and correspondence. As a result, there have been a number of additions since the distribution of the June 1995 Directory. Welcome to the following:

Janez Bizjak, Triglav National Park (Slovenia)  
Guido BroeLkoven, IUCN Eastern Africa Regional Office (Kenya)  
P.P.Dhyani, G.B. Pant Institute of Himalyan Environment and Develoment (India)  
Alan Dobie, Cairngorms Partnership, (Scotland)  
David Foreman, The Wildlands Project, (USA)  
Emmanuel de Guilleton, Vanoise National park (France)  
David Harmon, The George Wright Society (USA)  
Tom Halley, Consultant (USA)  
Serglo Kociancick, Mountain Wilderness International (Italy)  
Lin, Jinxing, Chinese Academy of Sciences (Peoples Republic of China)  
Daniel Maldonado, University Santiago Antunéz de Mayolo (Perú)  
David Mihalic, Glacier National Park (USA)  
Gordon Nelson, University of Waterloo (Canada)  
Ron Petocz, Consultant (Philippines)

Carlos Ponce, Conservation International/Latin America (Perú)  
Merv Syrote~k, Waterton Lakes National Park (Canada)  
Adam Watson, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (Scotland)  
Jay Wells, Wrangell-St Elias National park (USA)  
Edgard Yerena, Andean Bear Program (Venezuela)

### **Network Member News**

~ Hernán Torres has moved from Santiago, Chile to The Nature Conservancy headquarters in Arlington, Virginia USA where he is now Caribbean Protected Areas Specialist.

~ Tirich Mir, whose summit is 7708 m and is the highest peak in the Hindu Kush Range was successfully ascended by Stephan Fuller. Stephan is the IUCN Technical Advisor for the Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy (Pakistan's Northwest Frontier) and is working currently on the recently-established Central Karakoram (K2) National Park.

~ Allen Putney has temporarily left his position in IUCN/US as Director of Conservation Programs to plough the conservation field in Argentina. He will be attached to the National Parks Administration, working out of Bariloche.

~ A.N. Parohit, formerly Director of the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development has moved to Srinagar to be Director of the High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre at H.N.B. Garwahl University.

~ The Indian Society of Ethnobotanists awarded the J.W. Harshberger Medal for distinguished service to Pei Shengji of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

~ A painful tragedy has befallen Hamish Ensor, one of our original Network members from the Parks, Peaks, and People consultation of 1991. During an accident at his sheep farm in Canterbury high country of New Zealand, he received burns over most of his body, and as of this writing was in very serious condition in hospital. Our heartfelt wishes for healing and recovery go out to him.

### **Important Coming Events**

~ September 16: International Forum on Mount Fuji Conservation in Fuji City, Japan. Fuji's great cultural significance to Japan requires that this natural/cultural heritage be rescued from the deterioration that goes with heavy use. Jim Thorsell and Bing Lucas will be working with concerned Japanese in this Forum.

~ September 28 - October 1: EUROPARK 95, in Bled, Slovenia, and Tatra National Park. With a theme of training, this is the Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe conference in a mountain setting, where Marija Zupancic-Vicar and Janez Bizjak will be key players and hosts.

~ October 5-6: First International Conference on Protected Areas of the Alps. Sponsored by environmental ministries of France and Slovenia and hosted by Écrins National Park at Gap in the Hautes-Alpes, France.

~ October 14-19: North American CNPPA Members' Meeting at Banff National Park, Canada. There will be a meeting of any North American MtPA Network members present, in a workshop on the Mountain Theme. This is the first CNPPA members' meeting in a hopefully rejuvenated membership under Vice-Chair Bruce Amos.

~ November 12-20: Mountain Transboundary Protected Area Workshop in Australian Alps (Canberra to Melbourne). (See item in this newsletter.)

~ During the week of April 22, 1996: First Session of European Inter-Governmental Consultation on Sustainable Mountain Development (Agenda 21 follow-up) will be held in Scotland (probably Inverness or Aberdeen), organized by IUCN European Programme in collaboration with ICALPE. Martin Price, Zbig Karpowicz and Pier Zingari are key planners.

~ During the week of October 7, 1996: Second Session of above consultation, will be held in Trento, Italy. Same organizers.

~ June 30 - July 5, 1996: Second Conference on National Parks and Protected Areas of East Asia at Kushiro, Japan. This is organized by the IUCN/CNPPA East Asia Steering committee. The Chair is Matoto Numata. We are hoping that there will be a mountain workshop. October 14-22, 1996: IUCN World Conservation Congress. Montreal, Canada.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

Height of one of the Star mountains of Papua New Guinea which is sacred to the Wopkaimin people, but on which copper is now being mined 2,330 meters Approximate height of this sacred mountain, in a "natural" state after the mine closes 0 meters

This reminds one of a thought expressed by Aldo Leopold:

We are remodelling Alhambra with a steam shovel, and we are proud of our yardage. We shall hardly relinquish the shovel, which after all has many good points, but we are in need of gentler and more objective criteria for its successful use.

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